

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

KENNEDY, Patrick (Democrat)  
Representative, 1st District, Rhode Island  
Elected 1994 to the 104th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Brighton, Massachusetts -- 14 July 1967

Home: Providence, Rhode Island

Marital Status: Single

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Providence College, BA, 1991

Military: None

Profession: Public official

Political: RI House, 1989-94. Defeated Kevin Vigilante (R) in the 1994 general election with 54% of the vote for the open seat of Rep Ronald Machtley (R), who unsuccessfully ran for Governor. Reelected in 2000 with 67% of the vote and in 2002 with 60%.

Rep Kennedy, a liberal, is the 3d Kennedy in Congress and half of the first father-son congressional team since the Goldwaters (Sen Ted Kennedy is his father).

In the 104th Congress, asserted that the FY96 DoD authorization cmte report failed to provide for the Navy's future development of the attack submarine fleet. Voted against an amdt (unsuccessful) to freeze defense spending for FY97 at the FY96 level. Was opposed to provisions in the FY97 DoD authorization banning abortions in military hospitals overseas, separating HIV-positive military members, and banning gays from the military.

In the 105th Congress, said it was unacceptable that only 40% of DoD personnel who were administered certain investigational vaccines during Desert Storm received information about these drugs. Joined in several additional views to FY99 DoD Auth Bill House Report: disappointment in cmte's rejection of amdt to repeal overseas abortion ban; lack of language on conversion of Trident subs to conventional platforms; language on gender segregated training; and lack of addressing sexual orientation issues. (H.Rpt 105-532, 12May98).

In the 106th Congress, was appointed to Appropriations Cmte but was granted leave of absence from his seat when elected chairman of Democratic Congressional Campaign Cmte. (Legi-Slate, 14Dec98) Joined with other members in two additional views to the FY00 Defense Auth Bill House Rpt: one pertaining to concern over section which prohibited use of FY00 funds for combat or peacekeeping operations in Yugoslavia; and another on dissatisfaction with cmte's failure to repeal the ban on abortion in overseas military hospitals. Wrote additional view expressing concern with funding for the Navy-Air Force Joint Tactical Combat Training System. (HRpt 106-162, 24May99) Sponsored H.R. 2283, a bill relating to the provision of honor guard details at veterans funerals. (Kennedy News Release, 13Sep99)

In the 107th Congress, secured \$191.3 million FY02 defense dollars for seven of the major programs under the auspices of Raytheon in Portsmouth. Additionally, Raytheon Naval & Maritime Integrated Systems (N&MIS) of Portsmouth will directly benefit from the Navy's award of a \$2.9 billion contract for the design of the next generation of high-tech warships. Stated, "I look forward to working with the Navy and my colleagues to fully fund the DD-X program and ensuring that our nation's war-fighting capabilities remain pre-eminent in the world." (Kennedy News Release, 19Apr02)

Additional: At his election, was the youngest member of the House.

AF Bases: Quonset State Apt (ANG); Theodore Green MAP (ANG)

## COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education